

Petrieville Road Bridge  
Spanning the Grand River  
Eaton Township  
Eaton County  
Michigan

HAER No. MI-14

HAER  
MICH.  
23-EATOW,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER  
MICH,  
23-EATOW,  
1-

Petrieville Road Bridge

HAER No. MI-14

Location: Spanning the Grand River  
Eaton Township, Eaton County, Michigan

Date of Construction: Unknown

Builder/Designer: Unknown

Present Owner: Eaton County Road Commission

Present Use: Closed to traffic

Significance: The Petrieville Road Bridge is one of two remaining multi-span, riveted connection, Warren pony truss bridges in Michigan.

Project Information: The Petrieville Road Bridge is to be replaced with funds provided to the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Eaton County Road Commission by the Federal Highway Administration. Under Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, mitigative documentation was prepared in December 1985 by Daniel M. Reppuhn, P.E. of G. J. McLavy & Sons, Inc., Consulting Engineers.

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The Petrieville Road Bridge crosses the Grand River at the site of an unincorporate town named Petrieville,<sup>1</sup> which is no longer in existence. There used to be a dam just upstream from the structure, which provided power for a gristmill<sup>1</sup> and an ax handle factory.<sup>2</sup>

In 1914, a tornado demolished the structure previously occupying this site. Mrs. Elizabeth Kellogg of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, then a young girl, states that she saw the bridge twisted up and laying in the river.

No references concerning the bridge can be found in either the records of Eaton County Road Commission or Eaton Rapids Township as to whom was responsible for reconstructing the structure after the tornado destroyed the original bridge. No information is available concerning the exact date when the bridge was built or by whom. There are no nameplates or identifying marks.

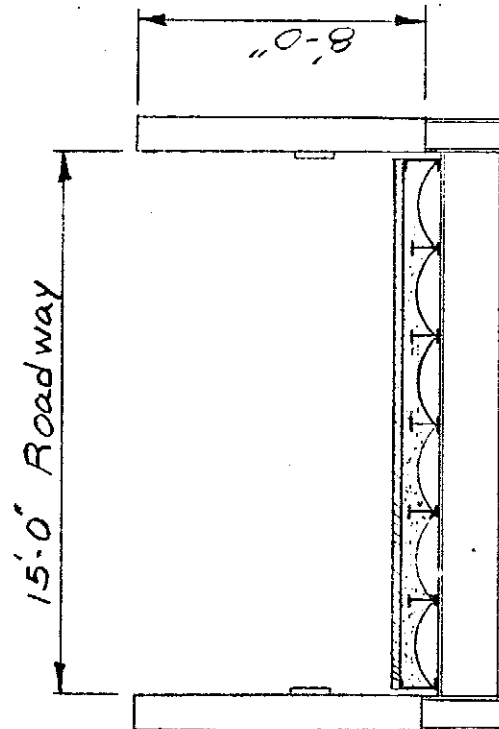
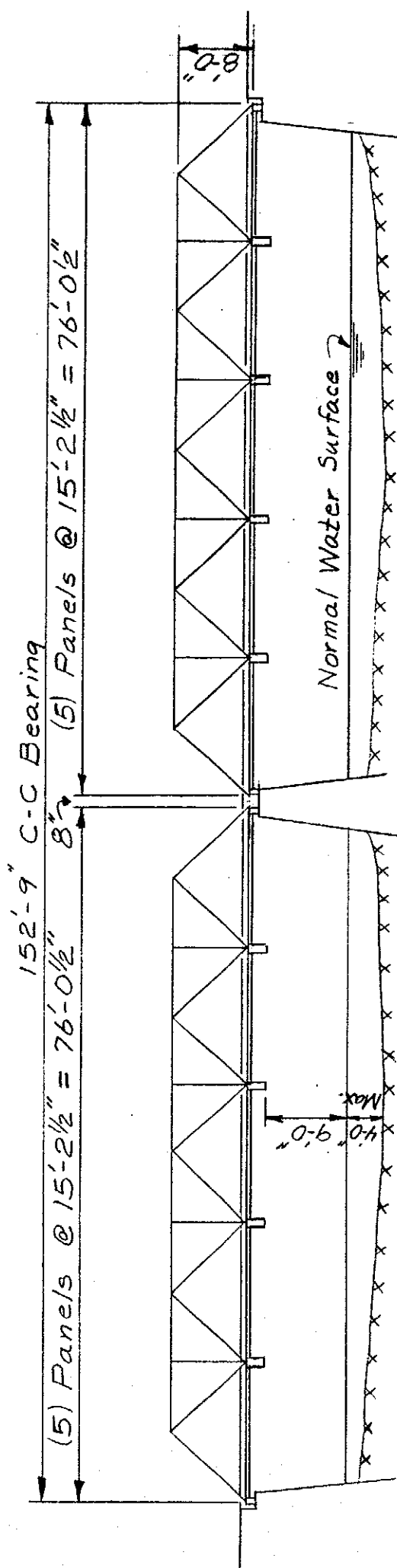
The Petrieville Highway Bridge over the Grand River is a two span Pony truss, Warren type, with riveted joints. Spans are 76' each for an overall length of 152'-0". The structure provides a clear roadway of 15'.

Upper chord members are constructed of channels with cover plate on the upper side and latticed along bottom sides. The lower chord consists of angles riveted to connection plates at the end posts and diagonals. The floor beams and interior stringers are I section beams, the outside stringers are channels. The floor is of concrete Jack-Arch construction with a bituminous wearing surface.

Abutments and pier are of concrete construction.

<sup>1</sup>Eaton County Heritage Map, prepared by the Heritage Committee of the Eaton County Bicentennial Commission and issued by the Eaton County Road Commission.

<sup>2</sup>Personal interview with local resident, Harry Bridge  
10810 Petrieville Highway  
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827



SECTION